GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1367
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Ban on Export of Fruits and Vegetables
Sanjar Shri Alok

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to ban the export of fruits and vegetables in the wake of their shortage and continuous rise in their prices in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating such items along with the norms adopted by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of these items in the domestic market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Compared to the total production, the export of fruits and vegetables is too miniscule to have any impact on domestic availability and prices of these commodities. For instance, in 2014-15, the total export of fresh fruits was 4.84 lakh MT against the total production of 890.18 lakh MT i.e. 0.54%. Similarly export of fresh vegetables was 20.19 lakh MT against the total production of 1685.06 lakh MT i.e. 1.20%. Notwithstanding above, the Government takes steps like imposing Minimum Export Price (MEP) on essential commodities like Onion and Potato to restrict exports during the times of scarcity in the domestic market. An Inter-Ministerial Committee constantly monitors the availability and prices of onion, which accounts for nearly 50% of India's total exports of fresh vegetables, and recommends on imposition or otherwise of the MEP and the level of MEP.

Steps are also being taken to boost the production of fruits and vegetables. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, is being implemented during XII Plan. The Mission envisages production and productivity improvement of horticulture crops, including fruits and vegetables, through various interventions. The scheme also envisages creation of infrastructure for post-harvest management (PHM) and marketing for better price realization of produce.
In addition to this, Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) a sub-scheme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched during 2012-13 to provide quality vegetables at competitive prices.
*****